

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A printer, comprising:
- 2 (a) an I/O port capable of receiving a plurality of commands
- 3 describing a document, the commands including both a named sequence
- 4 describing a form and an indicator;
- 5 (b) first means for responding to the indicator indicating
- 6 permission is granted to print each instance of the form from the same video
- 7 data, by processing and printing the named sequence according to a first
- 8 printing algorithm.
- 1 2. The printer of claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 (c) second means for responding to the indicator indicating
- 3 each instance of the form is to be printed from new video data, by processing
- 4 and printing the named sequence according to a second printing algorithm
- 1 3. The printer of claim 2, further comprising:
- 2 (d) third means for responding to the indicator indicating that
- 3 the form is a fixed form, by processing and printing the named according to a
- 4 third algorithm.
- 1 4. The printer of claim 3, further comprising:
- 2 (e) fourth means for responding to the indicator indicating that
- 3 the form is a background image, by applying a fourth printing algorithm to
- 4 process and print the named sequence.
- 1 5. The printer of claim 1, wherein the plurality of commands
- 2 are received from a computer externally connected to the I/O port.
- 1 6. The printer of claim 5, wherein the indicator is generated by
- 2 the computer.

1 7. The printer of claim 4, wherein the plurality of commands
2 are received from an externally connected source.

1 8. In a printer, a method of processing and printing a named
2 sequence describing a form, comprising:

3 (a) receiving the named sequence and an associated parameter;
4 (b) responding to the parameter being set to a first value,
5 indicating permission is granted to print each instance of the form from the
6 same video data, by converting the named sequence into video data and then
7 using the video data to print each instance of the form.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

2 (c) responding to the parameter being set to a second value,
3 indicating that each instance of the form is to be printed from new video data,
4 by generating new video data to print each instance of the form.

1 10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

2 (c) responding to the parameter being set to a second value,
3 indicating each instance of the form is to be printed from new video data, by
4 converting the named sequence into display list data and then using the display
5 list data to print each instance of the form.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of commands
2 are received from a source externally connected to the printer.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of commands
2 are received from a source externally connected to the printer

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein step (c) comprises the
2 following substep:

3 (c.1) flagging the display list data as a candidate for caching.

1 ~~14. A computer, comprising:~~

2 (a) means for generating a plurality of commands describing a
3 document, the commands including both a named sequence describing a form
4 and at least one command indicating permission is granted to convert the
5 named sequence once into video data and to then print each instance of the
6 form from the video data; and

7 (b) means for transmitting the plurality of commands to a
8 printer.

1 15. The computer of claim 14, further comprising:

2 (c) means for generating a second plurality of commands
3 describing a second document, the commands including a second named
4 sequence describing a form and at least one command indicating new video
5 data is to be generated to print each instance of the form.

1 16. The computer of claim 14, further comprising:

2 (d) means for generating a third plurality of commands
3 describing a third document, the commands including a third named sequence
4 describing a form and at least one command indicating the form is fixed form.

1 17. The computer of claim 14, further comprising:

2 (e) means for generating a fourth plurality of commands
3 describing a fourth document, the commands including a fourth named
4 sequence describing a form and at least one commands indicating the form
5 represents a background image.

1 18. The computer of claim 14, wherein the printer is responsive
2 to the plurality of commands by printing the document.

1 19. The computer of claim 14, wherein the printer is connected
2 to the computer over a network.

1 20. The computer of claim 14, wherein the plurality of
2 commands form a print job.